(d) if so, the names such States and the amount given to each of them?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) No such fund has been set up by the Ministry of Rural Development to give loans. However the Ministry of Rural Development is administrating a Fund by the name National Fund for Rural Development which was set up in 1984. Grants are given from this Fund to the implementing agencies.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Indictment of Rural Development Agencies by CAG

282. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG has indicted District Rural Development Agencies for subsidy to the ineligible misuse and diversion of funds, violation of guidelines etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof, giving the details of the DRDAs that have been indicted; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1998 cites certain instances of irregularities in respect of some District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). The instances cited are:

(i) the DRDAs of Dausa and Sriganga Nagar in Rajasthan for payment of subsidies to ineligible beneficiaries under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP);

(ii) the DRDAs of East Godavbari, Kurnool, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy in Andhra Pradesh for mis-utilization of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) funds;

(iii) the DRDAs of Kakinanda in Andhra Pradesh for diversion of IRDP funds for Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) works;

(iv) the DRDAs of Koraput and Ganjam in Orissa for submission of utilization certificate before incurring expenditure under IRDP; and

(v) the DRDAs of Nowrangpur in Assam for mis-utilization of funds under EAS.

(c) The comments of the concerned State Governments are being collect. Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of the comments.

New Textile Policy

283. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new Textile Policy.

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the expected time for its introduction; and

(d) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) An Expert Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam in July, 1998 to inter-alia, review and evaluate the impact of the existing textile policy, and identify the changes that are now necessary, particularly in the context of the new imperatives of international competition. The Committee has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the committee are under consideration in the Ministry for finalisation of the new Textile Policy.

Consumption of Raw Silk

†284. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total consumption of raw silk in India at present;

(b) the quantity of the above consumption which is fulfilled by import of raw silk; and

(c) the efforts being made to increase the production of silk in the country and the likely increase in quantum of production in the past three years?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.